

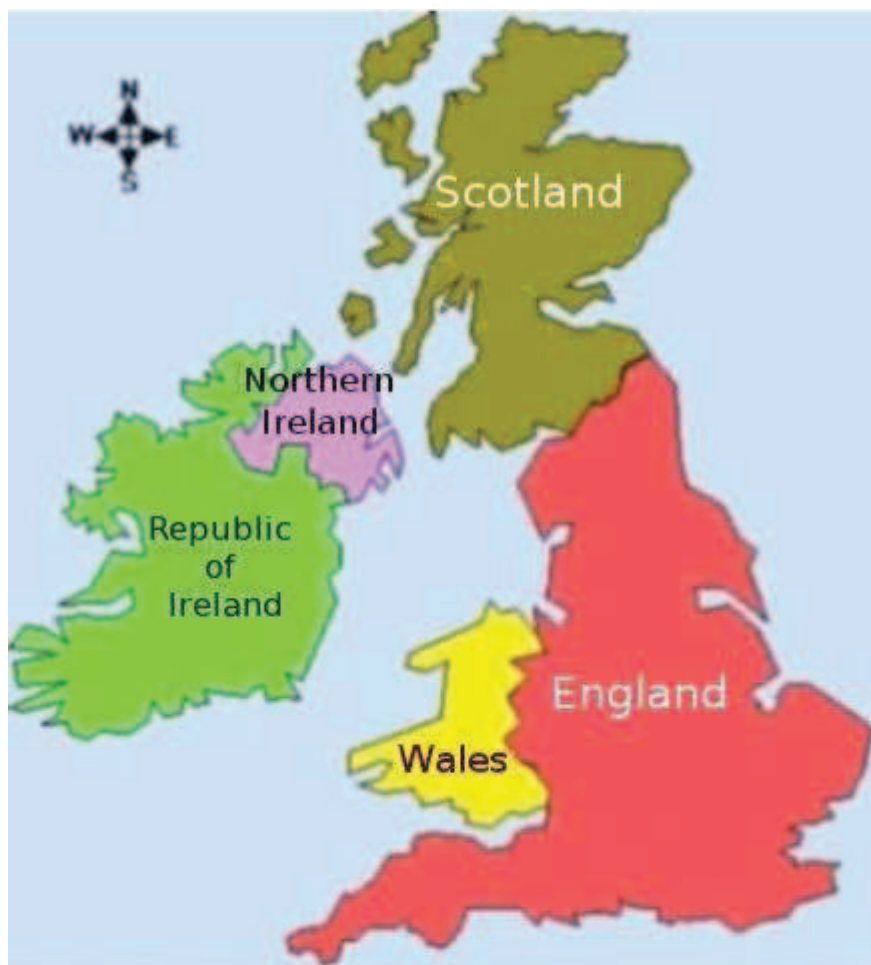
TEXTUAL

INTRODUCTION OF

THE BRITISH ISLES

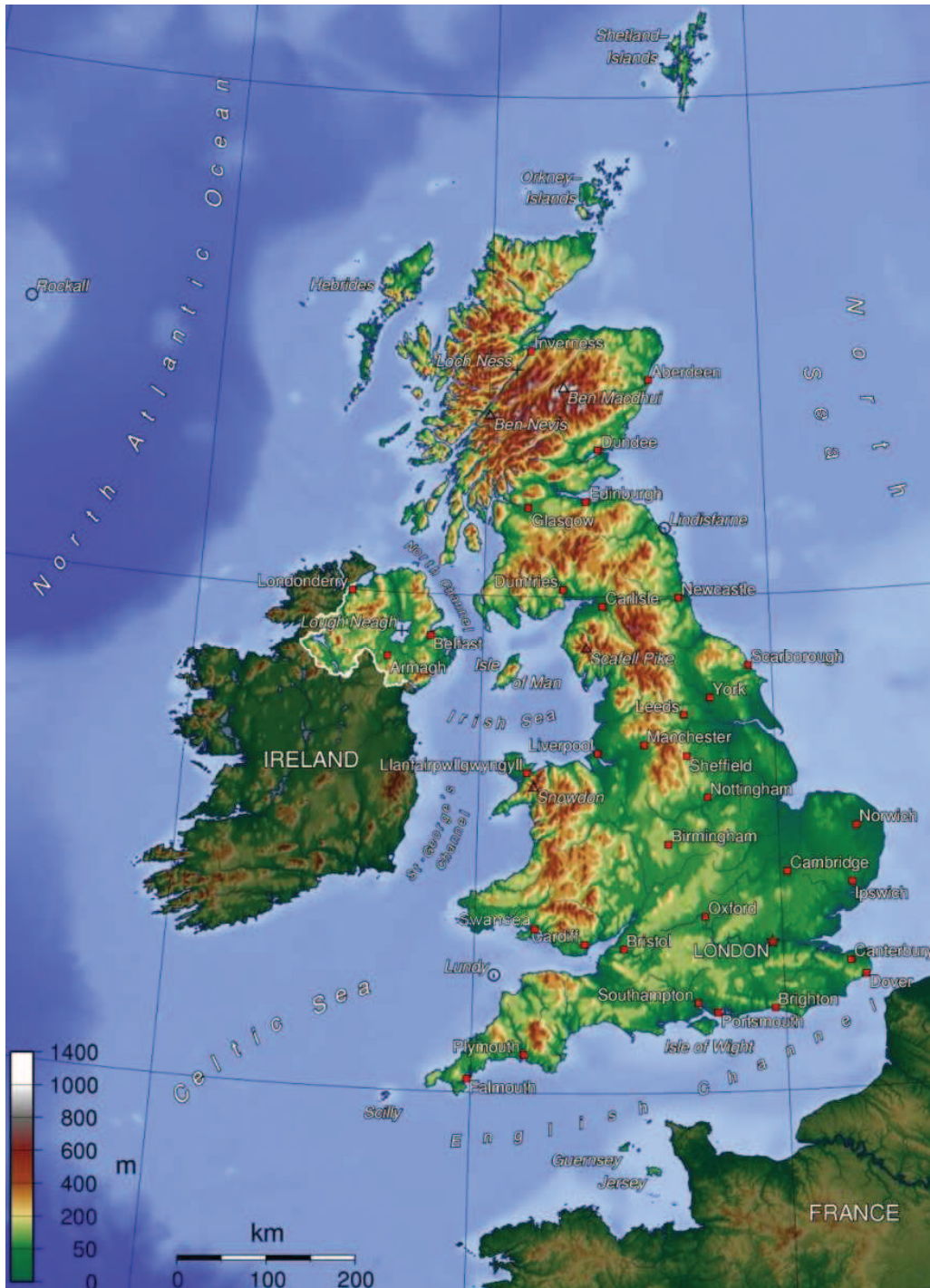
Activity 1

Physical Geography



The British Isles are a group of islands on the north-west coast of Europe.

The largest islands are Great Britain and Ireland.



Seas



Rivers and Lakes

Rivers are short but navigable
(Trent, Severn, Thames, Ouse, Tyne, Avon. Humber)

Many important ports at the estuaries (Liverpool, Bristol, London)

Small lakes of glacial origin
(Lochness Lake, Neagh Lake)

Loch” is a Scottish Gaelic word for a lake. “
Loch Ness is a large lake in Northern
Scotland. It is about 35 km long and 1500
meters wide. The average depth of the lake is
.about 400 meters



UNITED KINGDOM

Plains and hills to the south-east

**Mountains to the west and to the north
(Highlands, Grampians, Pennines, Cambrians)**

The mountains are very old, so they are not very high



Ben Nevis (Scotland)

IRELAND

Almost entirely flat or hilly

**Many lakes in the Central Plain
(Lough Ree, Lough Mask, Lough Corrib)**

The main mountain range is in the south

Rivers: Shannon, Barrow, Blackwater

Ireland = Emerald Island.



Activity 2

Political Geography

From a political point of view the area is divided into the United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the Republic of Ireland (Éire)



The British isles



Great Britain =

- England
- + Wales
- + Scotland

The United Kingdom =

- England
- + Wales
- + Scotland
- + Northern Ireland

UNITED KINGDOM

Form of Government

Constitutional monarchy

The UK is part of the **European Union** but its currency is still the **pound**, not the euro.

Four largely autonomous regions: Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland



Queen Elizabeth II

Capital cities

England → London

Wales → Cardiff

Scotland → Edinburgh

Northern Ireland → Belfast

Main cities

London, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Belfast, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham

Language and religion

English (official language) + Welsh and Scottish Gaelic in Scotland and Wales.

English is a Germanic language, Gaelic is a Celtic language.

Most widespread religion: Anglicanism (a form of Protestantism).

Some Catholics in Northern Ireland and Presbyterians in Scotland

Primary and secondary sectors

- Advanced agriculture (cereals, potatoes, sugar beet) + sheep breeding and fishing
 - Coal deposits and oil (in the North Sea)
 - Industrial Revolution
- Automotive, aerospace, chemical and food industry.

Patron Saints

England ➔ *St. George*

Wales ➔ *St. David*

Scotland ➔ *St. Andrew*

Northern Ireland ➔ *St. Patrick*

National Animals

England ➔ *the lion*

Wales ➔ *the red dragon*

Scotland ➔ *the unicorn*

Floral Emblems

England → *the rose*

Wales → *the daffodil*

Scotland → *the thistle*

Northern Ireland → *the flax*

Mottos

England → *Dieu et mon droit* (God and my right)

Wales → *Cymru am byth* (Wales forever)

Scotland → *In Defens* (In Defence)

Northern Ireland → *Quis separabit?* (Who will separate us?)

The British Flag



THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (eire)

Form of Government

Parliamentary republic

It's part of the European Union and has adopted the Euro

Language and religion

The first official language is Irish, but English is the most spoken language.

Main religion: Catholicism (St. Patrick).

Capital city

Dublin

Main cities

Galway, Cork, Limerick, Waterford

Primary and tertiary sectors

- Primary sector: very important, especially cattle and ovine breeding
 - Traditional industries: food, drinks and textiles
 - Modern industries: electronics and pharmaceutical
- Tertiary sector: trade and tourism

Patron Saint

St. Patrick

National Animal

the stag

Floral Emblem

the shamrock

Motto

Fe Mhoid Bheith Saor (Sworn to be free)

The Irish Flag



Activity 3

Tasks about activity 1 and 2

TASK 1

Complete the text with the following words:

Europe Isles coast United islands Great point Republic

The British are a group of on the north-west of

The largest islands are Britain and Ireland.

From a political of view the area is into the Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland) and the of Ireland (Éire).

TASK 2

Solve the anagrams

leswa ⇒.....

glnedna ⇒.....

cosltnad ⇒.....

lareidn ⇒.....

TASK 3

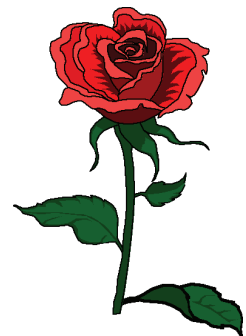
Draw an arrow to link the words with the pictures

the rose

the daffodil

the thistle

the shamrock



TASK 4

Find the words in the word search box vertically and horizontally

river sea lake mountain language religion motto

a	r	o	j	t	y	b	i	y	s
r	i	p	b	r	m	o	t	t	o
t	v	m	o	u	n	t	a	i	n
h	e	a	r	s	i	c	a	l	v
c	r	i	n	b	t	a	z	z	m
t	r	o	c	k	t	c	m	n	a
a	c	r	e	l	i	g	i	o	n
h	e	a	r	s	i	c	a	l	v
l	e	a	r	s	i	c	a	l	s
a	i	p	b	r	a	n	o	s	e
k	h	i	n	b	t	a	z	z	a
e	r	l	a	n	g	u	a	g	e



THE UNITED KINGDOM

The British Isles is the geographical name for all the islands off the northwest coast of the continent of Europe. The political map shows the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, which is a separate country. The United Kingdom is made up of **Great Britain** - that is **England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland**. The four parts of the United Kingdom share the same government, but they differ in many ways. Scotland has its own legal system and government, as well as its own education system.

The United Kingdom, officially the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is the island nation situated off the northwestern coast of Europe in the Atlantic Ocean. Also called Great Britain or Britain, it covers an area of 244,100 square km. The capital is London.

The United Kingdom comprises the island of Britain - consisting of England, Scotland and Wales, Northern Ireland, also known as Ulster (northwestern part of the island of Ireland), and smaller islands, including the crown dependencies of Guernsey, Jersey, and the Isle of Man.

The country extends between latitudes 49° and 61° N (about 970 km from south to north) and longitudes 1° E to 9° W (about 460 km at its widest point east to west). The population is 55.5 million.

The **land area** of the United Kingdom is evenly divided between **lowland** (elevation less than 100 m above sea

level) and **upland** (between 100 m and 500 m) with some 5% **highland** (above 500 m).

England has three hill regions in the north, west and southwest and two lowland regions in the southeast and east. The northern hill region is the Pennine Range, running north-south. The Thames and the Severn are the principal rivers. The Mersey and Humber estuaries are significant for developing port activities.

In **Scotland**, mountains stretch to the far north and across to the west, beyond which lie many islands. To the east and to the south, the lowland hills are gentler. The Clyde and Tweed are the main rivers.

Most of **Wales** is occupied by the Cambrian Mountains, and much of the land is suitable only for pasture. Wales's highest point is Mt. Snowdon.

Northern Ireland consists mainly of low plateaus and hills. Lough Neagh is the largest lake in the UK.

The United Kingdom has a temperate **climate**, warmed by the North Atlantic Current and by southwest winds. Average temperatures range from 4° to 6°C in winter in the north and from 12° to 17° C in summer in the south. Mean annual temperature is 6° C in the extreme north of Scotland and 11° C in southernmost England.

The **English** are the predominant ethnic group (81.5% of the population), the **Scots** comprise 9.6%, the **Irish** - including Ulster - 4.2%, the **Welsh**, 1.9%, and the West Indians, Indians and Pakistanis represent more than 2 per cent.

The United Kingdom has a population of 55.5 million, 46 million people live in England, 2.8 million people live in Wales, 5 million in Scotland, and 1.5 million in Northern Ireland.

In England and Wales, the population is 78% urban; in Scotland 70%; and in Northern Ireland 55%.

Since 1871 emigration has usually surpassed immigration, except during the 1930s when there was an influx of European refugees and between 1957 and 1962 when there was an inflow from the Commonwealth countries.

English is the major **language** throughout the United Kingdom, although some 32,000 speak Welsh as their sole language, and fewer than 350 speak only Gaelic.

Some 55% of the population belong to the **Church of England**. **Roman Catholics** comprise 10%, there are some **Presbyterians**, **Methodists**, and **Jews**; the remainder are mostly **Hindus** and **Muslims**.

Wales was officially linked to England in 1536 by the Act of Union. Despite their country's integration with England since the 16th century, the Welsh have been able to maintain and develop a cultural identity that is quite different from the English one.

The traditional culture was oral and non-materialist - even unworldly - in its philosophy. It developed into a uniquely blended culture, in which great stress was laid on the spoken and written word in poetry and in prose, and in which vocal music - particularly choral singing - played a great part.

The most obvious manifestation of this native culture is the Welsh language. By 1970, however, only 25% of the population could speak Welsh, and in an effort to raise that proportion, education was made bilingual. By 1981 only 19% of the Welsh population spoke Welsh, even though Welsh was used for many radio and television programmes, and in schools to promote Welsh culture and the Welsh language. The government supports the Welsh Arts Council, the Welsh National Opera Company

and the Welsh Theatre Company which are leading institutions.

Ulster was the name of the former kingdom in the north of Ireland that was annexed by England in 1461. It was colonized by the English and the Scots from the mid-17th century when thousands of people, mainly Lowland Scots Presbyterians, settled in Ulster.

Their descendants prospered, and their refusal to join the rest of Ireland in accepting Home Rule led to the establishment of the state of **Northern Ireland** in 1920. In the process Ulster was split between these two new areas.

The population of the new Republic of Ireland was only 5% Protestant, while in the new province of Northern Ireland, which comprised most of Ulster, 67% of the people were Protestant. For many years it seemed that almost everyone accepted the arrangement, even if some did not like it. Northern Ireland was a self-governing province, but its government was controlled by the Protestants, who feared the Catholics and kept them out of responsible positions. Many Catholics were unable to vote. Suddenly, in 1969, Ulster people, both Catholics and Protestants, began to gather on the streets and demanded a fairer system. The police could not keep control, and the republicans who wanted to unite Ireland turned this civil rights movement into a nationalist rebellion against British rule.

In order to keep law and order, British soldiers were sent over to help the police, but many Catholics saw them as a foreign army with no right to be there.

Violence has continued, with bomb attacks and shootings by republicans, which the British army has tried to prevent. In 1972, the Northern Ireland government was removed and was replaced with direct rule from London.

Since the Act of Union (1707) **Scotland** has been an integral part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain. The Scottish Parliament was abolished, and Scottish Peers were admitted to the House of Lords, and Scottish members to the House of Commons. Scotland has a distinct legal system based on Roman law, whereas the British legal system is based on Common Law and on a constitution which is partly unwritten.

CONTEXTUALIZATION

Let students look at the poster. Point out the differences between the two maps and give them some information about them.

1-4

Activity rationale

Reading non-linear texts.

Teaching procedure

Have students analyse the poster.

Solutions

1. c 2. a 3. c 4. d

EXPLOITATION

5

Activity rationale

Reading non-linear text in detail.

Read the passage and fill in the gaps with the words in the box.

England is the _____ country in Britain and it may even be the most important - economically and politically - but it is only _____ of the three countries that make up _____, and one of the four that make up the _____.

The United Kingdom - often shortened to U.K. - is therefore a _____ union which includes Britain, the Scottish islands, Northern _____ and some islands off the south and west of England.

It may seem confusing, but remember that _____ is the word which is used to describe people and things from the United Kingdom. It is OK to use British and Britain when you talk about the _____, but you can't use _____ or English. So, if someone says "I'm from Edinburgh", you can't comment saying "So you are English, aren't you?". He or she would look a bit cross and he/she would probably answer back, "Well, actually, I'm _____".

- British Britain one largest U.K. Ireland
 political Scottish England United Kingdom

Read about the British flag and solve the quiz.

The British flag, is known as the **Union Jack**. A jack is a small flag flown by a ship to show her nationality.



The cross of St George (England)



The cross of St Andrew (Scotland)



The cross of St Patrick (Ireland)

In the Middle Ages, English ships flew a flag with a cross of **St George**, and Scottish ships had one with the white 'saltire' cross of **St Andrew** on a blue background. When James I of England (James VI of Scotland) came to rule over both countries, he had the two flags united in the Union flag in 1606. During the Civil War, the Union was for a time dissolved, and the ships returned to the two original jacks. In 1649, Cromwell introduced the Commonwealth Jack which combined the St George cross with the Harp of Ireland.

When Charles II came back to the throne in 1660, he reintroduced the Union flag. The flag in this form remained until 1801 when Ireland was incorporated into the union of Great Britain and the cross of **St Patrick** was added to make the Union Jack as we know it.

Which country is not represented in the Union Jack, the national flag of the U.K.?



Parliament

Britain is governed by a Parliament which is the supreme legislative authority. It consists of three elements: the Queen, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. In practice power resides in the House of Commons. The main function of Parliament is to pass laws.

A Parliament has a maximum duration of five years, but is often dissolved and a general election held before the end of this term. Dissolution and writs for a general election are ordered by the Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The **House of Lords** is made up of hereditary peers, life peers, judges of the High Court in office, the two Anglican Archbishops and certain other bishops. The House of Lords is presided over by the Lord Chancellor, who takes his place on the woolsack. He is the chief judge because the House of Lords also has the function of acting as the supreme court of appeal.

The **House of Commons** is elected by universal adult suffrage and consists of 650 members of Parliament (MPs). Of 650 seats, 523 are for England, 38 for Wales, 72 for Scotland, and 17 for Northern Ireland.

The chief officer of the House of Commons is the Speaker, elected by MPs to preside over the House. Nearly all legislation is initiated in the House of Commons and presented to the Lords for approval. This is, however, little more than a formality, for the powers of the House of Lords are strictly limited.

Questions

1. What is the British Parliament made up of? How many houses does it consist of?
2. How often is a general election held in Great Britain?
3. Who can order the dissolution of Parliament and a general election?
4. Who forms the House of Lords? Why aren't members elected?
5. Who presides over the House of Lords? What other functions does he have?
6. Which of the two houses (the House of Lords or the House of Commons) makes laws in Britain?
7. What is the difference between the House of Lords and the House of Commons?



The Prime Minister

The party which commands a majority in the House of Commons forms the Government and its leader becomes Prime Minister.

Her Majesty's Government is the body of ministers responsible for the administration of national affairs.

The Prime Minister is appointed by the Queen, and all other ministers are appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. By modern convention, the Prime Minister always sits in the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister directs policy, informs the Queen of the general business of the Government, presides over the Cabinet (the Council of ministers), and is responsible for the allocation of functions among ministers.

The Prime Minister's Office at 10 Downing Street, the official residence in central London, has a staff of civil servants who attend to the day-to-day discharge of the Prime Minister's numerous responsibilities.

The Cabinet is composed of about 20 ministers chosen by the Prime Minister. Cabinet meetings are regularly attended only by the more important ministers.

Questions

1. Who appoints the Prime Minister in Britain? Why does he/she sit in the House of Commons?
2. What are the main functions of the British Prime Minister?
3. Where is the official London residence of the British Prime Minister?
4. Who assists the British Prime Minister in his/her immense responsibilities?
5. Who chooses (selects) the Cabinet ministers in Great Britain?

FASE 2

VISUAL

INTRODUCTION

OF

THE BRITISH ISLES

Activity 1

Videos about the British Isles

Watch this video:

Lecture 1 - UK – Geography

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lgG1qkaGofc>

Now watch another video:

Lecture 6 - UK - Present Day Britain

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZD8DfY21EI>

Activity 2

TASK 1

After watching the videos, do the following activity:

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE RIGHT WORD

The national flag of UK is the _____

The colour of England is _____

Northern Ireland is part of the _____

You can find the longest city name of the world in _____

The most famous English universities are _____ and _____

The two main parties are _____ and _____

The Prime Minister is _____

Margareth Thatcher's nickname is the _____

Activity 3

Watch these videos and discuss in group

From: "Exam Trainer- High Spirits" (E.Sharman):

Northern Ireland

Saint Patrick

Activity 4 (GROUP ACTIVITY)

Select a video and write some questions about it.

From: "Culture up" (Susan Burns):

London

The Industrial Revolution

The Scottish traditions

The British school system

TASK 1

After watching the videos, make questions about them in groups and exchange the questions among each group.

Activity 5

ACTIVITY 5 (GROUP ACTIVITY)

Explain to your schoolmates the content of your selected video

ENGLISH TEST

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

- What are the British Isles?

- Which are the largest islands?

- How is Ireland called?

- What is the United Kingdom made up of?

- What is Great Britain made up of?

- How is the British flag called?

CHOOSE WHICH ONE IS CORRECT

The patron saint of Scotland is:

- St. George*
- St. David*
- St. Andrew*

The National animal of England is:

- the red dragon*
- the lion*
- the unicorn*

The floral emblem of Wales is:

- the daffodil*
- the rose*
- the shamrock*

The motto of Northern Ireland is:

- Dieu et mon droit* (God and my right)
- In Defens* (In Defence)
- Quis separabit?* (Who will separate us?)

SAY IF THE SENTENCES ARE TRUE OR FALSE

TRUE

FALSE

☆ *The UK isn't a constitutional monarchy.*

☆ *The UK currency is the pound.*

☆ *The UK religion isn't Anglicanism.*

☆ *The Republic of Ireland is also called Eire*

☆ *The Republic of Ireland isn't a parliamentary republic.*

☆ *The Irish flag is green, white and orange.*

☆ *Trent, Severn and Thames aren't British rivers.*

☆ *Ben Nevis is in Scotland.*

☆ *Loch Ness is a large lake in England.*